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OCIL 16805 C "THE BLUE FOX"

written by

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From a story suggested by

Joe Brandt!

When Ann awings out on the overhanging tree limb and drops, she misses the river and lands on the bank, against the rocks, and she is knocked unconscious. So also is Red, who jumps down the bank after her. Before Baxter and John can make their way back along the tracks in search of Ann, a renegade gypsy named Joe, finds Ann and Red. Carefully he lifts Ann to his horse - sees the fox skin and pockets it - and starts for his camp not far away. Meanwhile the freight pulls into Crescent City and Robert and Tarka are frantic when they learn from the brakemen that Ann has jumped from the train and that Baxter and John have gone back to find her. Leaving Tarka in Crescent City to watch for them, in case he misses them, Robert hires a car and starts back.

Ann recovers consciousness in the gypsy camp but suffers from a total loss of memory. The gypsies have dressed her in clothes like theirs so that visitors to the camp will not be suspicious. Their plan is to hold her for ransom. Baxter and John find Red and seeing that he is unconscious, they abandon him and go on. Meeting a farmer, they make inquiries regarding a "niece who is lost". Thus they learn of the gypsy camp and decide to look there. But as they go along the road, they see Robert coming in a car. Quickly, Baxter hides while John climbs a tree that overhangs the road. As Robert's car passes under the tree, John swings down into the car and overpowering Robert, drags him from the car. The driver takes to his heels while Baxter and John lash Robert to a tree, suspended by his arms. Then they take the car and hurry on to the camp.. Meanwhile, an old gypsy starts reading the cards for Ann, to keep her amused. The cards foretell the coming of a young man with fair hair, who will give them much money to find Ann. The cards also foretell the arrival of Baxter and John who will try to steal Ann from them

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without payment. Just then, Baxter and John are sighted, coming near the camp. The gypsies quickly hide Ann in one of the tents and when Baxter comes into camp and offers a hundred dollars for any news of Ann, the gypsies all deny having seen her. Ann is amusing a small boy, in her tent, by dressing him in her red tie and riding boots. The lad wanders out into the camp just as Baxter starts away. Baxter sees him and recognizing Ann's things accuses the gypsies of lying to him. The gypsy leader orders Baxter's capture and he is quickly tied hand and foot and thrown in to a tent.

The driver of the car which Robert hired, reaches town and recounts his adventures to Tarka. Tarka gets two horses from the town stables and starts out to find Robert. Meanwhile Robert manages to get free from the tree and starts out on foot, still searching for Ann.

In the night while all the camp is asleep, Gypsy Joe creeps into Ann's tent and by showing her the fox skin get her to leave the tent quietly. He promises her the fox skin if she will do as he say and wait near a big tree until he comes back. Her only memory a vague one that she must have the fox skin, Ann willingly agrees. Then Joe slips into Baxter's tent and after asking and receiving the promised reward, frees Baxter. Baxter gets John and they start toward Ann. Joe has cautioned them that they must be careful as Ann has lost her memory and may get frighten easily. Meanwhile Tarka has found Robert and the two of them start down toward the river, having seen the camp firesof the gypsy camp. Ann sees Baxter and John hurrying toward her and something awakens in her sleeping memory. She cannot remember who they are but she has a feeling of terror and knows she must not let them capture her. She back away from them. John tries to slip around behind her. Robert and Tarka ride in on the opposite bank of the river and see Ann on the high bluff on the other side. Robert, frantic for her safety, does the wrong thing before he thinks. He calls to Ann. Quickly Ann turns, slips - and plunges over the high enbankment into the river - many feet below.

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